

NEGRO JOURNALISM, ITS UTILITY.

How may negro journalism be best utilized in the direction of advancing the religion, civil and political interests of those whose necessities have called it into being? And in what way has it served to elevate and protect the interest of its constituency?

To the first proposition I answer—that negro journalists to be successful in their mission must have the united and loyal support of negroes themselves; that negro editors and publishers must be thoroughly in love with the work, thoroughly in earnest in the prosecution of it, and thoroughly alive to the wants of their patrons. The utility of a six column folio printed on all four sides with stereotype matter of remote origin is apparent on its face. It makes the best kind of wrapping paper, and is useful when putting down carpets, as a protection to the carpet.

The successful negro journal must have brains to direct and guide its policy. It must not only point to success, but lead the way. The negro race in the United States is to-day but half emancipated. Negro citizenship is the blackest, foulest lie that ever besmirched the pages of the constitution. The equality of opportunity for the negro has never yet been accorded him and never will be until negroes themselves see the importance and great necessity of presenting solid front upon every question which directly concerns the welfare and upbuilding of the race. And negro journalism will never take its proper place until negroes learn the value of it, and recognize its potency and utility. Personal journalism has never yet made an editor wealthy or popular and it never will.

A public journal is supposed to be a reflex of public opinion and the man at the head of each. A journal must understand the spirit and temper of its patrons, must have an abundance of common sense, pluck, and enterprise. He must be an honest, conscientious and consistent man, aggressive and discreet. Upon the qualities of head and heart depends the success of any newspaper. Negro journalists are to-day doing as much if not more for the amelioration of the condition of the race in this country than the clergy. They make more sacrifices both of time and money towards the uplifting of the race. They are martyrs to their efforts in the cause of truth, justice, liberty, and patriotism. Though laboring under disadvantages almost unheard of in the history of journalism, it has accomplished some good in this world for the despised race. It has learned to howl vigorously, if not at all times in unison, whenever the liberties of the race have been in danger. In calling attention to outrages upon the manhood and womanhood of the race, it has proved itself to be a faithful sentinel, and has given the very best evidences of its utility in a way that can scarcely be misunderstood. The custom has obtained among a certain class of negroes, who have been dragged from the depths of obscurity by negro journals, of supporting the papers published by white men in preference to colored papers. This class of negroes never see anything good in a colored journal until they need its services to advance their personal ambition.

This country is full of negroes both of high and low degree who owe much of their popularity and greatness to the influence and power of the colored press. The opportunities of the negro journal are far better to day than ever before. It is silently but surely making its way to the front. It is a fixture in this country. It is a necessity and will continue to be so "until the sun of righteousness shall shine with equal rays upon every man having equal rights, whether he be black or whether he be white."

Negro journalism in the United States asserts itself wherever intelligent men and women of any race are to be found. It is vigorously, determinedly contending for justice and equality of right for all men, and it cannot and will not be satisfied with less. It is going to be heard, and the sneers of those who have bowed at its shrine cannot and will not silence its voice.

It was Demosthenes who said: "It becometh him who receiveth a benefit from another man forever to be sensible of it, but him that bestoweth it friendly to forget it," and Socrates declares, "that he is unjust who does not return thanks for any benefit, whether the giver be friend or foe." I commend this kindly advice to whom it may concern.

BRUCE GRIT.

The BEE is the paper to publish your wants, for sale and all personal mentions in. All matter should be in not later than Thursday.

FRED DOUGLASS NOT EN-DORSED.

THE NEW YORK COLORED VOTE'S ASSOCIATION CRITICIZES HIS SPEECH—SPEECH OF R. M. H. NELSON AND OTHERS.

The New York colored republican association met at their rooms, 1212 E street n. w., last Wednesday evening. Among other things discussed was the recent emancipation speech delivered by Mr. Fred. Douglass, sr.

Mr. W. H. Bruce, of this city, made a motion, after a few preliminary remarks, to endorse the recent emancipation speech of Mr. Fred. Douglass.

Mr. R. M. H. Nelson, one of the brightest and most gifted young negro orators in this country, opposed the motion and gave as his reason, that his utterances did not receive the approval of the colored race; it lacked the elements of manhood, and when a man, who claims to be the acknowledged leader of the negroes, tells us that we need no race pride, etc., is not the man whose utterances we should endorse.

Fred. Douglass, jr., attempted to defend his father or old gentleman, as he styled him, that the old man meant one thing but he was construed to mean another.

Mr. J. E. Bruce objected also to the endorsement of his speech, and said what was done at this juncture of the meeting would be illegal. Mr. H. O. Cole asked a question whether the club was not organized as the personal organization of Mr. Douglass?

This remark brought about a heated discussion and caused Fred. Douglass, jr., and W. R. Davis to spring to their feet. Mr. Davis remarked that the man who refused to endorse Mr. Douglass' speech was not an intelligent or sensible man. J. E. Bruce objected to the remarks of Davis, and informed the gentleman that every man had a right to his opinion.

The next question considered was the appointment of a committee to wait on the head of the Departments. Mr. H. Bruce, who was appointed chairman, said that he declined to serve. Mr. Fred. Douglass, jr., said he hoped that Mr. Bruce would not decline as he was just the man to impress the heads of the departments. It was supposed that Mr. Bruce's good looks would tend to secure places for applicants, and for that reason Mr. Douglass, Jr., remarked that he was just the man for the place. These flattering remarks were enough to cause the gentleman to remain on the committee.

Mr. Nelson said that he was surprised at Mr. Douglass to remark that the negro had no inventive genius.

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